

Focus on the mechanism misses the point and will prove long-term counterproductive. Indeed, these mechanisms -- in this case the means to capture broadcast -- help creators more than they hurt them. Historical analysis proves this.

As one example, the video cassette shows that even when everyone has the means the mechanism is best defeated by motive -- we can all (over 90% of us) tape and capture and distribute, but almost no one does -- and the new revenue can and will flow in ways that grow not diminish the business. Neither did cassette or digital audio tape or countless other buffers ruin creators, because the business model of licensing content obviates our desire to have it and hold it. We pay more through abundance and licensing than we do through control and restriction.

How many more creators would now be waiters if Disney and others had their way and stopped the video cassette? How many years of new income did they delay by fighting Betamax? For how many waiters did they delay creatorhood through their struggle? How many more creators will be spared waiterdom if we assist new markets instead of expecting government to address and end their very existence?

Stop the broadcast flag. Save the American entertainment industry from itself.